

ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 31st January 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta ...	2,100	14th January 1880.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	175	
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	600	
Fortnightly.				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto ...		31
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye ...	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta ...	700	27th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...		2nd, 16th, and 23rd January 1880.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	671	20th January 1880.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta ...	2,000	20th and 27th January 1880.
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān ...	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	350	25th January 1880.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	745	23rd ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	24th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye ...	200	21st ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	400	28th ditto.
16	"Medini"	Midnapore ...	250	
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...		26th ditto.
18	"Navavibhakar"	Calcutta ...	850	
19	"Pratikar"	Berhampore ...	275	16th ditto.
20	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinia, Rangpore ...	250	22nd ditto.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	500	25th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	19th ditto.
23	"Samālochak"	Ditto ...	1,000	19th ditto.
24	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad ...	350	
25	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh ...	260	24th ditto.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	4,000	26th ditto.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore ...	300	19th ditto.
28	"Srīhatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet ...	440	
Tri-weekly.				
29	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta ...		
Daily.				
30	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto ...	700	21st to 28th January 1880.
31	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	29th and 30th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	26th to 30th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	500	20th to 28th ditto.
34	"Prabhāti"	Ditto ...		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
35	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	487	23rd January 1880.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
36	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	365	24th ditto.
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
Daily.				
37	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader	Ditto ...		
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
38	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	21st ditto.
39	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	500	29th ditto.
40	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto ...	157	28th ditto.
41	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto ...	200	
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	23rd ditto.

POLITICAL.

SAHACHAR,
January 19th, 1880.

In an article on Afghan affairs, the *Sahachar* condemns the arrest of Yakub Khan as a step which is opposed to all sound statesmanship; the hangings at Cabul as a great political blunder; and the policy of a permanent occupation of Afghanistan as injudicious. The last, if adopted, will but facilitate the work of Russia, and occasion embarrassments to the British Government. There is yet time left for mending matters. Yakub Khan should be released, and the British army withdrawn from Afghanistan. This will not certainly be attributed to any weakness on the part of Government. It will but increase prestige and not diminish it.

SANJIVANI,
January 19th, 1880.

2. The *Sanjivani* remarks that the people of this country, although they are nominally under the sway of the Queen of England, are in practice under the rule of Her Viceroy, who holds office only for a term of five years. The latter, again, is but a tool in the hands of the English ministers and the English people. It is but natural that they should consult the interests of that people before consulting any other interests. The present system of appointing Viceroys is therefore mainly responsible for many of the defects of the administration. In a future issue, the Editor promises to make some observations on this subject.

DACCA PRAKASH,
January 25th, 1880.

3. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 25th January, contains an article headed the "Mirage-land of Cabul." The Editor remarks that Lord Lytton has made a repetition of the blunder which nearly half a century ago was committed by Lord Auckland. Shere Ali has died in exile, while Yakub, as a prisoner in Meerut, is gladdening the eyes of Europeans. The bloody game is not yet at an end. Numbers of Afghans are being arrested and killed. The people of India are supplying the means of sport with their life-blood. But what is to be the fate of Cabul? Unless the Afghans became as thoroughly emasculated as the Bengalis, room for uneasiness would continue to exist. In conclusion, Government is besought to withdraw its army from Afghanistan. The fear of a Russian invasion is but a dream.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 26th, 1880.

4. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 26th January:—We have mortally injured the feelings of the liberty-loving Afghans. We are seeking to take away their independence for no fault of theirs. We are hanging those who are fighting for their liberty on the plea of their being guilty of rebellion. We do not hesitate to offend the religious feelings of this fanatic people. Our troops are showing their bravery by burning villages. In short, we are committing cruelties in Afghanistan which no civilized nation ever committed upon another. Now, for what purpose are these things being done? How long shall we be kept in suspense? Lord Lytton has passed the Vernacular Press Act and gagged us. But what person can see the unjust acts of the present administration and remain silent? We cannot bear any more. We have suffered much since Lord Lytton first set his foot in India. There have been famines and pestilences: still the craving of the rulers for war has not, it would seem, been satisfied. No beneficial measures have been undertaken in this country for a long time past. The revenues are being expended in this inequitable Afghan war. The people are harassed with new taxes. Those for whose benefit Government is busy in strengthening the North-Western frontier of India are being ruined. The Afghan war is not bringing us any advantage, except it be that Government is having its own whims gratified.

The measures which have been up to this time adopted by Lord Lytton have all borne unpleasant fruit. One of his characteristics is that he does

not know the art of rectifying an error when he has once committed one. Hence to maintain his point, he goes on doing things which become worse than before. The Press Act, the License Tax, and the stationing of a Resident at Cabul, all show this. In the first place, the declaration of war against Cabul has been both an imprudent and inequitable proceeding. The treaty with Yakub Khan, in disregard of the wishes of the Afghans, betrayed a singular lack of foresight. The stationing of a European Resident in Cabul was an exceedingly indiscreet step, while the expedition sent in haste and in a state of unpreparedness for avenging the murder of the envoy was equally ill-advised. Lastly, any settlement of Afghanistan such as that which is now said to be contemplated would be very impolitic if it is were made without consulting the wishes of the Afghans.

5. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká* accounts for his long reticence on the subject of the war in Afghanistan by saying that as Government itself does not yet appear

The Afghan war.

to know what it will do with that country, any speculations on the part of the Editor would be perfectly useless. It is just possible that Lord Beaconsfield, who is a fatalist and a favoured child of fortune, did not aim at anything particular when he declared this war. Although the war therefore in its present stage does not appear to be very successful, Lord Beaconsfield's good luck may lead it to a triumphant conclusion.

The British Government must by this time have had its passion for war fully satisfied. The war against the Afghans has often appeared to resemble that which the goddess Kali is described in the Purans to have waged against the demons Shumbha and Nishumbha. To prevent the birth of fresh demons from their blood, the goddess was at length obliged to suck it dry. Of course, the British Government cannot do the same thing with respect to its ever-increasing enemy—the Afghans. The rulers are gifted with neither the godly power nor the very long tongue (however long this organ may be in them) which the goddess Kali possessed. There is therefore no knowing when the war in Afghanistan will end. In entering upon this war, Government perhaps thought that the Afghans would submit as soon as the British army made its appearance in their country, or perhaps it was hoped that the invasion would serve to bring about a hostile collision with Russia. But they have been disappointed. Government is now placed in an embarrassing position, from which its only means of escape is to be found in a retirement from Afghanistan. Much of the difficulty of the present position might be obviated if General Roberts could, at least temporarily, become a convert to Mahomedanism. He might in that case be safely installed as Amir.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

6. The following is the concluding paragraph of an article on the Native Civil Service in the *Pratikár*, of the 16th January:—We cannot be satisfied with the

The Native Civil Service.

system of nomination which has been adopted by Lord Lytton in admitting natives into the Civil Service. In the absence of competition, there is no hope for educated men belonging to the middle classes of native society. We shall now therefore have to consider carefully what should be done to have the limit of age, in connection with the competitive examination, increased. The present limit of age is too low to enable any native of India to present himself at any examination in England. The time has now come when the people of this country should ask for justice.

7. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 19th January:—The people have lost all hope after protesting against the actions of the present Viceroy and his Finance Minister; and hence it is that they

Vindication of Sir John Strachey.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
January 27th, 1880.

PRATIKAR,
January 16th, 1880.

SAHACHAR
January 19th, 1880.

are now found to manifest an indifference to the efforts which are being made by Sir John Strachey to re-impose that odious and unnecessary burden—the income-tax.

It is not that their objections have become less strong, but that they feel that all protests are ineffectual; and that, so long as the present Prime Minister and the present Viceroy remain in office, it is worse than useless to protest against their wishes. The latter will not hear the counsels of the wise advising caution, nor will they listen to the wails of an aggrieved, oppressed, and starving people. The whole world knows that, at the time of imposing the license-tax, Lord Lytton clearly promised, in the name of God, that its proceeds would be applied for purposes of famine relief, and that not a single pice thereof would be diverted to general expenditure of the administration. What could be more explicit than this? The people, even Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Arthur Hobhouse (the last was in India at the time) believed that the proceeds of the license-tax would constitute a separate fund. In spite of the assurances thus clearly given by the Viceroy, Sir John Strachey now gives the public to understand that the tax was imposed to supplement the general revenues. This indeed is the perfection of diplomacy. No former administration did ever thus indulge in verbal quibbles in their dealings with the people of India. Their words admitted of but one meaning. They indeed occasionally made blunders, but never indulged in equivocations. This was reserved for the Finance Minister of Lord Lytton. The public has rejected the plea of Sir John Strachey. He, however, is not to be thus put out of countenance. His brother, General Strachey, who is a member of the Secretary of State's Council, has come to his rescue. The affection of the two brothers for each other is much like what subsisted between the demon Bātápi and his brother.

Reference is then made to the letter of Sir Henry Norman in the *Times*, on the abolition of the cotton duties, and the article concludes by expressing a hope that the present ministry may be soon replaced by a Liberal one.

SAHACHAR,
January 19th, 1880.

8. The same paper hears that Government is reconsidering its decision in the matter of the Durga Puja holidays.

After dwelling on the importance attached to these holidays by the native community of Bengal, the Editor remarks that what the public asks in this connection is not a new favour at Lord Lytton's hands, but the continuance of a long-enjoyed privilege.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 20th, 1880.

9. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 20th January, gives a summary of the recent speech of Sir Arthur Hobhouse on the present financial policy of the Government of India; and agrees with the speaker in characterizing the acts of Lord Lytton's administration as the outcome of a policy which is secret, suspicious, and arbitrary. Reference is made to the Vernacular Press Act and the Arms Act, and to the diversion of the Famine Fund from its legitimate purposes. The Editor concludes by expressing a hope that the dissolution of the present Cabinet will disclose a brighter future for India.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. Referring to the letter of General Strachey in the London *Times*, in which he seeks to refute certain statements contained in a recent speech of Sir Arthur Hobhouse, the same paper observes that the attempted refutation is both void of sense and worth. "We do not understand how General Strachey, who is a military officer, could lay any claim to experience in financial matters. It is well known that in the matter of the abolition of the cotton duties, a majority of votes in the Indian Council was only obtained by means of the double casting vote of the Secretary of State, thus shewing that the measure exceedingly unpopular with the members. Of course, it is idle to refer to was these things under the present administration, in which, from the highest to the

Sir John Strachey and his brother.

lowest, all are equally bad. The doing of unpopular acts and subsequent attempts at justification have become almost a disease in these days. The Government of India indeed proclaimed that the reduction of the cotton duties was made in the interests of this country, but it would be well if the mere fact of proclamation was enough to make it a beneficial measure. A time might come when Government might declare that, in the interests of India, the country should be turned into a desert, and might also secure a majority of votes in favour of this view. But would that be beneficial? We believe that General Strachey has shewn a complete ignorance of the subject. He speaks of the good intentions of Government. Now this reference to good intentions can only excite our laughter. The people have not been yet able to see what good intentions lay concealed in the heart of Government. So far as they are concerned, they have not been in the least gainers by the existence of these good intentions. Man can judge of intentions only so far as these are expressed in acts. If the actions of the present Government have proceeded from good motives, God will certainly reward them, but from the public they do not deserve anything but a verdict of condemnation."

11. The same paper is gratified to learn that Sir Ashley Eden is endeavouring to restore the Durga Puja Holidays to their original duration. In spite of the support he gave to the Vernacular Press Act—a step which is not quite intelligible—the present Lieutenant-Governor has always enjoyed a reputation for independence and outspokenness, and for cherishing a love for this country. It is to be hoped that his efforts in the matter of the holidays will be successful. The Editor takes the occasion to direct the attention of His Honor to the importance of a railway from Dacca to Mymensingh, and suggests that the capital requisite for the construction of the proposed line might be raised by floating a loan among the zemindars of Eastern Bengal. It is, however, necessary that the Magistrates should be induced to undertake the duty of collecting the funds.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 20th, 1880.

Sir Ashley Eden, the Durga Puja holidays, and the Dacca and Mymensing Railway.

12. Now that the Railway Conference, remarks the *Arya Darpan*, of the 23rd January, is holding its sittings, it should invite an expression of opinion from the public on points connected with the management of the goods and passenger traffic on the Indian railways. It is notorious that native merchants prefer sending their goods by river than by railway, and the reason is not far to seek. The latter course is attended by many disadvantages. The railway servants are mostly rude and overbearing; the rates charged are high; goods, again, are often abstracted. True, there is the police which ought to prevent this; but it is a fact that since the creation of the railway police, robbery has gone on increasing, so that, where formerly one maund was abstracted, it is now two that are thus misappropriated, for the profits have to be divided between the station-masters and the police. Regarding the passenger traffic, it is to be noted, that as far as native females are concerned, railway travelling is almost out of the question. Even the males who travel by railway do so under a constant fear of being insulted by the rude railway officers. The waiting-rooms are not often, owing to these men, available to native passengers, who are besides exposed to a good deal of inconvenience, whether in buying their tickets or in getting into the carriages. It behoves the Conference to attend to all these matters.

ARYA DARPAN.
January 23rd, 1880.

The Railway Conference.

EDUCATION.

13. In an article on the examinations of the Calcutta University, the *Education Gazette*, of the 23rd January, condemns the questions set in the last Entrance Examination, particularly those of the paper on

The University Examination;
question papers.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
January 23rd, 1880.

English. They were mostly questions on English Grammar, which it was not at all easy for the candidates to answer. Considering that the object of the examiner should be to find out whether an examinee is able to write and understand English in a tolerable manner, it is not clear why the candidates were asked to solve a number of grammatical puzzles. The only effect of this will be to foster cram. The paper on Physical Geography in the B.A. Examination was extremely difficult. Regarding the appointment of "moderators" this year, it is observed that the practice is good and should be continued. The Editor does not understand how Mr. Robertson, of the Doveton College, could accept the position of a "moderator" when Babu Ananda Mohan Bose had wisely declined it on the score of his being interested in the City School. "Moderators" should be appointed also in connection with the Oriental languages. In conclusion, it would be well if the question papers for the M.A. and B.L. Examinations were printed instead of being lithographed, as at present. The latter course has this disadvantage, that if the handwriting of the lithographic writer is bad, the examinees cannot easily read the questions.

HINDU HITTAISHINI,
January 24th, 1880.

14. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 24th January, dwells in a long article on the turbulent and oppressive character of the Kalus of Rekabi Bazar in the Dacca district. They form a combination of wicked and unprincipled men, who break the provisions of law in broad daylight, and perpetrate horrid cruelties. The police have not hitherto succeeded in checking their misdeeds.

SADHARANI,
January 25th, 1880.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 25th January, devotes an article to a discussion of how Lord Lytton will be remembered in history. "Opinions differ on this point. While some, as the conservatives, admire his talents profoundly, others, such as the leaders of the liberal party, condemn his acts in an unsparing manner. The London *Statesman* observes that Lord Lytton combines in his own person the faults of Warren Hastings and Lord Auckland. On the whole, it may be said that the present Viceroy is not popular, and that history will judge him more by the character of all his actions, taken as a whole, than by the merit of any particular act. The people of this country will remember him for many things, particularly for the Vernacular Press Act and the Native Civil Service. The latter measure, which it has taken a long time to mature, has been exceedingly disappointing, and we firmly believe that the sigh of disappointment raised by two hundred and fifty millions of people will have a blighting effect upon whatever comes in contact with it. Personally, Lord Lytton is not unpopular; and unless his public measures were really of an irritating character, there would be no hostile opposition to them at all. His Lordship has, however, just done a very graceful act by restoring the Durga Puja holidays to their original length of twelve days. For this the two hundred and fifty millions of people of this country are heartily blessing him with uplifted hands. His Excellency has by this act secured for himself a lasting place in their grateful minds."

SADHARANI.

16. Referring to the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, the same paper remarks that, in respect of their quality, the questions set in successive years are not similar. They are either more or less difficult than in the preceding year. Another point is that the appointment of Bengalis as examiners has proved a success; and, excepting English, it would be well if, for all other subjects in the Entrance Examination, Bengali examiners were appointed.

In the next place, why is the same examiner selected every year for a particular subject? Thus, Mr. Mowat takes Geometry every year. The

guards in the examination hall worry the examinees extremely. Answer papers are torn to pieces if only they are a minute or two delayed. There should be some arrangement made for holding half-yearly examinations for the benefit of the unsuccessful candidates, who are at present subjected to extreme humiliation and neglect, as well as for examining such candidates only in those subjects in which they were "plucked" in the previous examination.

17. A correspondent of the same paper refers to the inconvenience occasioned to passengers by the delay, which is often over fifteen minutes, in opening the doors of carriages in the train which stops one hour at the Madhopur station, on the Chord Line of the East Indian Railway. This is said to be due to a paucity of hands at this station.

SADHABANI,
January 25th, 1880.

18. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 26th January, refers to two erroneous notions which are prevalent among English statesmen regarding the finances of India. These are, 1st, that the salt duties press heavily on the people; and, 2nd, that an income-tax is not suited to this country. Regarding the former, it should be observed that, although affecting all classes, it is still so light in its incidence that it is not felt to be a burden even by the poorest. Government has therefore acted unwisely in reducing it. The measure, while it has not in the least benefited the consumers, has caused a loss of revenue, to make which good an oppressive impost has been put on. In connection with an income tax, this paper has always remarked that it would not be at all oppressive if only the minimum limit of taxable income were not low. Thus, we would ask Government to fix the proposed limits of Rs. 500 and 1,200 at higher figures, and levy a certain percentage on the income of traders.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 26th, 1880.

19. The same paper observes that the new rule which is shortly to come into force in registration offices, regarding the delivery of documents within a prescribed time to the parties executing them, is likely to cause great hardship. Before providing for the levy of a fine from those who may not come to receive a document within one month after the registry office has done with it, Government should take some step to inform the executants of the date by which it would be ready for delivery. At present no one knows when a document may be received back from the registry office. The whole thing depends on the will of the amlah. Government is therefore asked to direct that in the receipt given by the registry office to the party who is entitled to receive the document, the particular date should be specified when it would be ready for delivery.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

20. The *Samvad Prabhakar* would like to see Government honoring the eminent men, who have by their writings enriched the Bengali language, with some title similar to that which has been conferred upon Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyāsagar. It is to be regretted that Government has been hitherto rather wanting in this duty. Among others, the Editor mentions Baboo Akshaya Kumar Datta, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, and Hem Chandra Banerjee, as those whose claims are deserving of recognition.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
January 26th, 1880.

21. The *Jagat Mitra*, of the 26th January, recognizes the necessity of passing the Religious Endowments Bill into law, and regrets that interference on the part of Government in this matter has been construed by some as interference with the religion of the people, regarding which the State has pledged itself to maintain a neutral attitude.

JAGAT MITRA,
January 26th, 1880.

BHARAT MITRA,
January 29th, 1880.

22. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 29th January, is gratified to learn that Lord Lytton has restored the Durga Puja holidays to their original duration of twelve days. It would be well if His Excellency

The Durga Puja Holidays.
The Religious Endowments Bill.

considered all other matters in the same impartial manner in which he has considered this question of the holidays. Thus, there is no necessity for the Religious Endowments Bill; and by passing it into law, Government would but expose itself to the charge of interference with the religious customs of the people. It is well known that the endowments are mainly made for the benefit of the Pandas, and not for the public.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ARYA DARPAN.

23. We have this week received for the first time three numbers of a Bengali weekly called the *Arya Darpan*. It is published in Calcutta, and professes to be

A new paper noticed.

an organ of the Native Christians of this province, whose interests and affairs are mainly treated of in its columns. Political matters are also occasionally handled by the Editor. The paper is written in simple Bengali.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 26th, 1880.

24. A correspondent of the *Navavibhakar* asks Government to direct the excavation of that portion of the channel of the Bhairav river, which has silted up between Jessore and Tárpur, thereby effecting a junction between this river and the Kapotáksha. The aid of local zemindars might be reckoned upon if the work were undertaken.

The excavation of the Bhairav in
Jessore.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 31st January 1880.